



***Women Making History:  
Honoring America's Past and Future Leaders***

**March 7, 2007**

**Remarks of Ronald N. Langston, National Director  
Minority Business Development Agency  
U.S. Department of Commerce**

*(474 words)*

- Hello, this is Ron Langston, National Director of the Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce Washington, DC.
- In recognition of **Women's History Month and International Women's Day**, it is an honor to salute minority women who have changed America.
- Accomplished leaders like Secretary Condeleeza Rice, the first African American woman leads the State Department. And Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, the first Asian American woman, serves in the Cabinet of the President.

- That's why encouraging our girls and young women to become business owners and leaders is critical in making our nation's future sustainable and competitive.
- One such business leader is **Dr. Ann Tsukamoto** who is the inventor of two issued U.S. patents. One patent issued in 1991, for developing the process to isolate the human stem cell. Her work has led to great advancements in understanding the blood systems of cancer patients and may one day lead to a cure for cancer.
- **Dr. Ellen Ochoa** made history by becoming America's first Hispanic female NASA astronaut logging over 719 hours in space. However, her research in robotic guiding systems at Stanford has led to inventions improving quality control in manufacturing goods. She has also received three patents for her discoveries.
- An advocate of science and technology, **Dr. Mae C. Jemison** was the first African American female NASA astronaut. She founded her Houston-based company to research, develop and implement advanced

technologies for the developing world. Her projects include a satellite based telecommunication system to improve health care in West Africa and an international science camp for students.

- **Karlene Hunter**, the president of LaKota Express, is a successful Native American woman entrepreneur who has created jobs, partnerships, and economic stability on her reservation through her full service management and marketing company. Ms. Hunter's business leadership was recognized at the 2006 Minority Enterprise Development Week conference.
- These innovators and entrepreneurs in science, technology, and business help make America competitive in the global economy.
- The President has acknowledged that he is blessed to have strong women in his administration.
- At MBDA, minority women represent 55% of all senior managers. MBDA is fortunate to have competent women managers and leaders who provide frank advice. In leadership, candor matters.

- We know that entrepreneurship represents a bridge to empowering minorities and women. At MBDA, we will encourage women entrepreneurs to reach their dreams of economic independence and self-determination.
- Finally, this month we are hosting a Gulf Investment Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. We encouraged several minority, women owned companies will participate in the conference.
- At MBDA, we salute the continued success for minority women entrepreneurs in building America's legacy of innovation, competitiveness, and economic prosperity.
- On behalf of Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez and President George W. Bush . . . . Thank you.